

April 15, 1949.

Dear Jacques,

Thanks very much for the *Bacillus megatherium* cultures which were received in good condition. I am sorry that you did not have the Lisbonne-Carriere strain, but I have sent out further inquiries for it.

I hope that you did not propose very seriously that the lysogenic phage is a spermatozoid. I have been afraid to talk about it to some bacteriologists for fear of raising confusion with recombination. The two processes are quite independent, and recombination occurs quite well with non-lysogenic cultures.

I regret very much that I have very small supplies of the galactosides, and would have to curtail important experiments if I gave up what I had. However, I hope to have the opportunity to send you cells of K-12 or other strains (notably Lac₁-) which have been grown on galactosides for these experiments. A small quantity of such dried cells would make sufficient extract for your needs; to break up the galactoside supply would make it difficult to handle the small quantities of adapted cells separately obtained. The galactosides are not too difficult to make by a trained chemist, and I wonder whether you could not make such arrangements. The standard methods in the literature are quite suitable.

As you do have lactobionate, I would suggest that it might be worthwhile to check on my statement that this compound will evoke galactosidase in K-12 although I have been able to find no evidence for its combination with the enzyme.

I hope you will pardon my hasty statements, some of which will have to be revoked. It has been my feeling that since we were working along parallel lines, and could check on each other's results, that we could do each other a great service by checking and verifying even premature conclusions, not to speak of discussing them.

Lately I have been looking at the galactosidases produced by some suppressor genotypes, but have found no remarkable deviations from the "standard" enzyme. This again might support the notion that the locus operandi of the gene is not usually on the specificity of the enzyme but on different components of the adaptive process.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg